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KEVIN KAMPS

MR. KAMPS: My name is Kevin Kamps. I work for Nuclear Information and Research in Washington, D.C., and I spoke earlier today, some I'm going to keep this really short.

1... There were at least a dozen and more than that contradictions that I heard from DOE spokespeople tonight that I wanted to respond to, but I'm just going to respond to one, I guess, because I know the most about it, and that is that a statement was made right at the beginning this morning, I think -- I think you might have made it. I'm not sure -- that the DOE is close to zero release on the casks at Yucca Mountain, and I just wanted to say that I feel that that's on paper, that's in theory, and I'm from Michigan.

I just moved to Washington three months ago, and for the decade before that, I worked on nuclear power issues in Michigan. I lived about thirty-five miles from the Palisades Nuclear Plant downwind, and Palisades was one of the first plants in the country to turn to dry cask storage because their spent fuel pool was overflowing, and they have now fifteen casks that are loaded with high-level waste out there. They're a hundred yards from the water of Lake Michigan on a sand dune on a concrete pad that's three feet thick and anchored to nothing except for sand. It's a high erosion zone, and they've had nothing but problems from day one with the casks out there.

The first casks were loaded in 1993, and the fourth cask to be loaded was loaded in June of 1994 and a short time later was found to be defective, and our organization, Don't Waste Michigan and the Lake Michigan Federation had filed a lawsuit to try to get an injunction against the loading of casks on the grounds that there was no safe unloading procedure that had been demonstrated to the public, and the Attorney General of Michigan argued the case for our side and Consumers energy Corporation and the NRC, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission testified in court that if there was a problem with the casks, they would simply unload the casks by a process of reversing the loading procedure, and that was said in court. The judge believed them and granted the green light to the loading of the casks. Well, that fourth cask that was loaded in the summer of 1994 sits there to this day over five years later still loaded.

Consumers Energy Company claims that they have a safe unloading procedure. The NRC has approved this procedure, but the public does not know what the procedure is. They claim that it's proprietary information, can't be divulged to the public. We believe that there is no safe unloading procedure in place. There's -- there are additional casks at Palisades that are defective. They have defective welds. These weld defects have shown up at Arkansas, at Arkansas 1 Nuclear Plant. They use the same cask design. It's the ventilated storage cask number 24, and it's one of several casks designs in use in the country.

There's less than a hundred casks to my knowledge. I need to research that, but there aren't a whole lot of casks in the country at this point, and so there's so many assurances that were said tonight that the casks are going to be safe, the casks are safe. Well, they don't exist yet. The transport casks, they're going to be safe. They're going to be NRC certified. Well, the casks at Palisades are NRC certified, and the NRC right now is in the process of taking another step back from -- from adequate regulation of the casks. They're -- they're willing to let these cask manufacturers manufacture these casks even before they have a certificate of compliance from the NRC.

The NRC is saying if you're willing to take the risk of manufacturing these casks before you have your certificate of compliance and later it's found that there's problems, then you're going to have to fix those problems and -- and face that liability. Well, that's fine and good, but, you know, once the casks are built and all this money's been invested, then the problems, we'll find a way to fix that. It's the same at Palisades Nuclear plant.

...1 | So just because the casks are going to be NRC certified, I'm really concerned that all this theory is being
| spun about how well these casks are going to do inside Yucca Mountain, but the experience to date shows
| that there's real problems with the casks, and to put them -- I mean, these casks at Palisades are going zero
| miles per hour. So now we're going to launch them on the highways at 60, and I'm just -- there's real
| holes in that logic.

2 | And I'll just conclude with a quote that I think has a lot of power to it. It's from Frederick Douglas, who
| was the great American abolitionist, and it's from 1849. He said: "Power concedes nothing without a
| demand. It never did and it never will. Find out just what people will submit to and you have found the
| exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them. The limits of tyrants are
| prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress," and today's -- for me this has been the single
| greatest day of people saying no to something that's wrong and not just. So I'd like to say thank you to
| the people of Nevada for giving me this day. Thank you.